

Ontario is in the  
Centre of the Great  
Snake River Valley  
Corn Belt.

# The Ontario Argus.

The Produce from  
15,000,000 acres is  
marketed from On-  
tario each year

Representative Newspaper of Ontario, Malheur County and Snake River Valley.

VOLUME XVII

THE ONTARIO ARGUS, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1915.

NO. 8

## WARM SPRINGS PROJECT WAS NOT TURNED DOWN

Deschutes Designated by  
Secretary Because Warm  
Spring Report Not in

### LEGISLATURE FAILS TO ACT

Appropriation by Congress  
was not Matched by State  
And Is Not Available

News to the effect that Secretary Lane of the interior department has designated the Deschutes project in Crook county, as the one for which he wishes congress to appropriate \$450,000, has caused no consternation in Malheur county. There are several causes which led the secretary to designate this project, chief among which was the fact that the surveyor's report on the Warm Springs project in Malheur county is not yet completed and therefore not in any shape to receive official recognition by the department of the interior.

The fact that the government appropriation was made contingent upon a like appropriation by the state of Oregon, is another reason why it was best that the Warm Springs project was not designated. For the Oregon legislature refused to appropriate any money this year for reclamation work in Oregon, thus the appropriation by the government can never be used, and will remain in the hands of the interior department. It is said legislative delegates from Crook county attempted a mammoth effort to pull an appropriation through the legislature, but the economy stand was taken so decisively, there was little prospect of the legislature doing anything.

Thus, the Warm Springs project in Malheur county has not been turned down, for as yet it is not in shape for consideration by the secretary of the interior. Secretary Lane was compelled to designate some project in order to get congress to make any appropriation, and he selected the best one at hand, at this time.

Congressman Sinnott attempted to put the appropriation through, without compelling Secretary Lane to designate the project at this time, thus giving time for the Warm Springs report to have been completed, but congress refused to allow the appropriation to go through in this manner, and the designation was made.

In view of the stand of the Oregon legislature, however, it is better for the Malheur project, that the Deschutes project was designated at this time. The Warm Springs project is far more favorable than the Deschutes project, both from a standpoint of cost, and by reason of the amount of land that can be reclaimed. It is claimed the Malheur project is now in line, and will undoubtedly be the next project in Oregon to be taken up by the interior department.

## MRS. STEWART DIES AFTER LONG ILLNESS

Wife of Local Railroad Em-  
ployee Crosses The  
Great Divide

Mrs. Ella M. Stewart died in Ontario, Oregon, Feb. 21, 1915, after an illness of several years. Ella Mary Reynolds was born in McChamberville, Iowa, April 24th, 1860. She was married to G. E. Stewart seven years ago at Denver, Colorado. Mrs. Stewart leaves two children, Noble and Ray Means. They are of a former marriage. Mrs. Stewart was married in 1882 to William Means who has been dead some twenty years. Mrs. M. E. Reynolds of Denver, Colorado, mother of Mrs. Stewart, has been in Ontario for several weeks and was at the bedside of her daughter when she passed away. Mrs. Stewart was buried from the Farley undertaking parlors Feb. 22, Rev. Chamberlin of Boise having charge of the services at the chapel and also at the grave. Mr. Stewart is an employee of the railroad company at this place.

### Back From Convention.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Boyer returned Saturday from Portland where they have been attending the Merchant's convention. They say the Portland merchants were ideal hosts and a very satisfactory meeting, especially well attended by the eastern Oregon merchants, was held. Mr. Boyer stopped off a day at Baker on his way home.

## KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS GIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Over One Hundred Attend  
Pleasant Gathering Wed-  
nesday Evening

The Knights of Pythias entertained royally at the castle hall Wednesday evening when the grand officers of the domain of Oregon and the Pythians from surrounding towns visited with them. A hundred or more were present and fraternalism held sway. Two candidates, J. F. Doty and A. Guerin, were given work in the first rank. After this followed addresses by the grand officers, A. E. Wrightman, grand chancellor and L. R. Stinson, grand keeper of records and seals and by J. B. E. Bourne, editor of the Senator and manager of the insurance department of the lodge. At about 11 o'clock supper was served in the banquet room, which was enjoyed by all. After supper E. B. Conk presented a toastmaster and toasts were in order until about one o'clock when the meeting adjourned. The local lodge is highly elated at the success of the meeting and are especially grateful to the Myrtle lodge of Weiser, who are so well represented.

### Mrs. Belknap Dies.

News has been received in this city of the death of Mrs. Clara Belknap at Portland Friday, the 19th. Mrs. Belknap was a sister of Mrs. W. W. Woods of this city. Mrs. Woods has been in Portland for several days and with Mr. Belknap accompanied the body to Prairie City, where the funeral was held Sunday. Besides her husband three sons survive her, the oldest being 14 years.

## LA GRANDE NEWS- PAPER MAN HERE

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Dennis, and son Jack, of La Grande, visited in Ontario the first three days of this week. Mr. Dennis is the editor and publisher of the La Grande Evening Observer. He paid a glowing tribute to this section of the state when he stated that nowhere in Oregon were the prospects so great for home builders and settlers, as in Malheur county. "You have the greatest corn country west of the Rocky mountains," he said, "and nowhere has nature been more favorable in providing the base upon which to build ideal homes and prosperous communities."

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis and son went to Nyssa Tuesday morning, and returned to La Grande on No. 19 Tuesday night.

## STUDEBAKER COMPANY OPENS IN ONTARIO

The Studebaker company through their local representative, S. B. Brisco, have leased the brick building next to the Ontario hotel. They will put in a complete line of implements, sprinklers, harness, wagons and carriages and will be ready for business about March 1. The stock from the Payette branch, which will be discontinued, will be moved here next week.

and the brother railroad men acted as pallbearers. The sympathy of the friends is extended to Mr. Stewart, the young men and the aged mother in the sad hour of sorrow.

## MAMMOTH PROTEST OVER CHANGE IN TELEPHONE RATES

Railroad Commission Gives  
Suspension of Toll Charge  
Until Hearing Has Been  
Granted.

Free tolls between Ontario and Nyssa and Fruitland still exist, despite a notice of the Malheur Home Telephone Company, mailed to its patrons the latter part of last week, announcing a toll charge of 15 cents to take effect between these places Tuesday, February 23rd. In a conference yesterday between telephone officials and the committee of the Commercial club, it was decided to suspend the rate until a hearing of the railroad commission could be called, when the matter will be threshed out thoroughly.

A telegram was sent to the railroad commission yesterday asking for their sanction to a suspension of the rates, and this was granted, in a telegram from that body, received in Ontario last night. The hearing will be asked for today, and will probably be granted in ten days.

A protest meeting was called Monday afternoon for the purpose of starting some action against the proposed change, and a committee consisting of H. C. Boyer, Dr. J. Prinzing and Judge G. L. King were appointed and instructed to take the necessary legal steps, if such a course was found advisable, to restrain the telephone company from enforcing the ruling.

Fred B. Jones, vice-president of the Malheur Home Telephone Co., and with headquarters in Boise, was in Ontario yesterday, and the Commercial club committee took the matter up personally. Mr. Jones stated that their action in charging a toll to Nyssa was under instructions of the State Railroad Commission, or rather on account of the past rulings of this commission. The rate to Fruitland was charged by the company, Mr. Jones saying they feared interference by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Mr. Jones stated they were willing to proceed with their contract which provided free toll to Nyssa and Fruitland, providing the commission would allow it, and the matter will now have to be threshed out with the commission. A hearing will be applied for immediately by both the telephone company and the citizens of Ontario and it is expected that within ten days the commission will grant this hearing, very probably in Ontario.

When the Malheur Home Telephone Company was organized and took over the plant and holdings of the old Independent company, they agreed to allow free tolls to Nyssa and Fruitland. Since this contract was made,

## ADVANCE REPORT OF WARM SPRINGS PROJECT

Engineer John T. Whistler Completes Preliminary  
Survey of Local Government Project--Final  
Report in About Six Weeks

+++++  
FACTS ABOUT WARM  
SPRINGS PROJECT  
+ Concrete arched dam of gravity  
+ section.  
+ Approximate height, 100 feet.  
+ Estimated storage of 225,000  
+ acre feet of water.  
+ Estimated total cost, \$444,000.  
+ About 32,000 acres unclaimed  
+ land, under canals.  
+ Cost of storage per acre foot  
+ of water, \$3.70.  
+++++

An advance report of the Warm Springs Irrigation project has been compiled by Engineer J. T. Whistler at Portland, Ore., Feb. 5, 1915. Sirs--In accordance with your instructions, I submit the following data

## COMMERCIAL CLUB SMOKER AROUSES HIGH ENTHUSIASM

Meeting Held Last Night in  
Local Club Rooms Pro-  
motes Great Interest in  
Organization.

What is claimed as the most enthusiastic meeting ever held by the local Commercial club, occurred last night in the club rooms of the organization, the occasion being a smoker and general get-together meeting. The club rooms were crowded and the enthusiastic addresses made by different members of the organization, as well as by visitors from Fruitland, bespeaks a most prosperous year for this section of the Snake river valley.

The addresses for the principle part, were confined to a summing up of conditions as they existed in this part of the country today, although some valuable ideas and plans for future work were outlined.

## Clement Returns From Legislature

H. W. Clement returned Friday from a four weeks' sojourn at Salem where he has been attending the session of the legislature. Mr. Clement was representing the Dead Ox Flat Irrigation district and was much interested in some of the bills that were before the legislature relating to this section.

He stated that Frank Davey of Burns and J. T. Hinkle of Umatilla are able and untiring advocates for eastern Oregon. He says that Harney and Malheur counties should be especially proud of Frank Davey, their representative. He is a man that stands for the people and works for the good of the country.

### Debs Makes Talk.

Eugene V. Debs, the socialist candidate for president at the last election, lectured at Boise and Nampa Thursday and Friday of last week. Several people from this section went to hear him discuss the principles of his party.

however, a state law was passed granting the Oregon Railroad Commission the power to regulate all rates. It is claimed the commission has the power to annul this contract, and force the telephone company to charge the rates as provided, but it is the general opinion in Ontario that the commission, when once it investigates local conditions thoroughly, and finds that neighboring towns on the Idaho side are enjoying free toll service, will allow a like service on this side.

## EIGHT CITIES ORGANIZE TO BOOST THE COUNTRY

### Masons Call Meeting.

A special meeting of the Masonic lodge of Ontario has been called for Thursday night, March 4th. Work in the first and third degrees has been planned. The special meeting has been called on account of the large amount of work now on hands. The lodge has ten degrees to confer which will keep it busy up to the time of the summer vacation.

## WOMANS' CLUBS GIVE ST. PATRICK'S BALL

Cotton Ball to be Given for  
The Benefit of The  
Library

Annually, the Woman's club of Ontario ask the public to assist them to present a substantial sum to the Public library to aid in its maintenance. This year they will give a Cotton ball on St. Patrick's night at the Wilson hall. These balls, so popular throughout the entire country this winter, are simply an expression of the belief that any movement whose object is the stimulation of native commerce is worthy of the support of patriotic people and will meet with the approval of such. This, with the need of the beautiful little library, will, they hope, meet with your liberal patronage.

### Gowns of American Materials.

It is my intention to have my evening gowns this winter made of cotton materials--voile, crepe, etc.--and to wear nothing but cotton at evening entertainments. I have succeeded in interesting a number of my friends in this idea, as it will be no sacrifice to wear the beautiful transparent materials of delicate colors manufactured by some of our southern houses. I am sure that if every woman in the United States who can afford to have an evening gown at all would agree to have it of cotton the situation in the south would very soon be relieved, and I certainly shall buy nothing of foreign make whatever until this dreadful crisis is well past.--Grace Atherton.

## WORK RESUMED ON NEW MOORE BLDG.

T. H. Moore is construction a brick building adjacent to the Ontario Furniture store. The building will be thirty-six feet by seventy-five feet and will have a ceiling about fourteen feet high. It will be built in two rooms, the partition making a front room thirty-six by fifty-two feet and a rear room twenty-two by thirty-six feet. The rear room will be used by the Ontario Furniture company as an unloading and work room. It will have a raised floor under which will be a basement which will be connected to the front room.

The front room will have a cement floor and will be especially convenient for heavy merchandise, such as come in carload lots, or machinery.

## MILE LONG PIPE LINE IS NOW BEING BUILT

In order to bring water to his land south of town Randall Sage will put in a pipe line over a mile long connecting with the Owyhee ditch. The land is what is known as the Stone place and is about three miles from town. It is on a little higher level than the land between it and the ditch and to overcome this and do away with fluming, the pipe line will be installed. The pipe is being built by Claude Bingham, who manufactures cement and concrete goods. Each piece is two feet long and about ten or twelve inches in diameter and is made of concrete. The order calls for three thousand six hundred pipe, which will keep the force busy for some time.

Perfect Permanent Work-  
ing Organization of Snake  
and Payette River Valleys

### MEETING HELD IN PAYETTE

Is Attended by Mayors of  
Eight Towns. Power  
Question Taken up

To further the plan of co-operation between the cities of the lower Snake and Payette River Valleys, and to effect a working organization in which all the different cities and districts have equal representation, an association was formed in Payette last week. The meeting there was attended by the mayors of eight towns and cities, and the first and preliminary steps were taken toward the perfection of what is intended to be a harmonious working body to further the interests of this vast section of Eastern Oregon and Western Idaho.

The mayors, or their special representatives, from Weiser, Payette, New Plymouth, Nyssa, Emmett, Parma, Huntington and Ontario were present at the meeting. It is the intention to include in the permanent organization, a representative of each of the irrigation districts, as well as a representative from each commercial club, and the mayor of each town. The purpose of the meeting and the permanent organization, is to bring about a united effort of this vast section in the handling of matters which make for the prosperity of the whole district.

It has been learned from experience that the best success of any undertaking is made possible only by united effort. There is probably no section of the west which offers such wonderful opportunities to new settlers as the lower Snake and Payette river valleys. And on account of the vast unsettled territory embraced by this district, the country needs more settlers. By a gigantic united effort and harmonious unison, more good can be accomplished along this line than if each individual town worked separately.

At the meeting last week, one of the principal topics for discussion was the proposal of the Idaho Power & Light Company to enter this territory with cheap power. It was the consensus of opinion that cheap power would be a boon to the whole district. But to compel the residents of the country to pay maintenance, profits and interests on bonds of two distinct companies, was looked upon with some disfavor, providing the company already in the field would grant the coveted decrease in rates, and bind itself to these  
(Continued on page 5)

## SCHOOL FOR TRAIN- MEN IS HELD HERE

Especially Equipped Dem-  
onstration Cars Teach  
Efficiency

To insure safety and efficiency a school for trainmen was held here Sunday. Specially equipped cars for demonstration were used by a board of instruction or examiners who represent the Union Pacific system. The trainmen, including conductors, engineers, firemen and brakemen, from the Boise, Vale and Juntura branch lines and the main line from Huntington to Homestead, were represented.

The purpose as stated above was to promote safety to freight and passenger traffic and also to promote efficiency in handling the same. Rules were interpreted, signals explained and all questions answered that pertained to this subject. Mr. Chalmers, chief dispatcher at Salt Lake, was the head of the board and may be appointed as chief instructor by the company in order that they may have a may at that kind of work all the time.